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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Benin: draft resolution

Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

"**Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond**

"The Economic and Social Council recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002 and 58/15 of 3 December 2003 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

"*Recalling also* that major United Nations instruments on human rights and social policy, as well as relevant global plans and programmes of action, call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family,

"*Noting* that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

"*Recognizing* that the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provided a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels,

"*Also recognizing* the commendable efforts made by Governments at the local and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family,

"*Convinced* that equality between women and men and respect for the human rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large, and noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life,

"*Aware* that families are affected by social and economic changes, manifested as observable worldwide trends, and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families have to be identified and analysed,

"*Noting with concern* the devastating effects of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic on family life, and urging the international community to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001,[1]

"*Recognizing* the important role of non-governmental organizations, at both the local and national levels, working in the interest of families,

"*Aware* that there is a need for inter-agency cooperation in the field of families to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

"*Recalling* that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be celebrated during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Decides* that the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be an integral part of the agenda and the multiyear programme of work of the Commission on Social Development until 2006;

"2. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained actions at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and research, to promote the role of families in development and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

[1] Resolution S-26/2.

"3. *Invites* Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;

"4. *Emphasizes* that the active participation and involvement of non-governmental organizations as partners should be encouraged, in order to benefit from their experience and grass-roots links to promote local and national participation and action;

"5. *Calls upon* research and academic institutions to continue to play a valuable role in the family-policy process at all levels, particularly in improving knowledge and information on families;

"6. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

"7. *Urges* that more inter-agency cooperation and a wide range of activities be undertaken by the United Nations system in the area of the family;

"8. *Notes with appreciation* the study entitled 'Major trends affecting families worldwide', which provides a framework for the future activities of the programme on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

"9. *Encourages* the regional commissions to promote further the exchange of experience at the subregional and regional levels and to encourage coordination of efforts among regional intergovernmental organizations, for example by establishing or strengthening regional-level working groups and structures for coordination purposes, by providing support for non-governmental efforts, as well as by providing technical assistance, including advisory services, to Governments;

"10. *Ensures* that the programme on the family shall continue its lead entity role, in cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society, in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, entailing, inter alia, the provision of technical assistance to national coordination mechanisms, diagnostic studies, exchanges of expertise and experiences on salient family issues, research and data collection, information dissemination and policy and programme coordination within and outside the United Nations system;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

"(a) Give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family by preparing the observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps to promote the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

"(b) Initiate a research agenda on family concerns, including balancing work and familial responsibilities, fatherhood, changes in the family and society, the family as a source of cohesion, families as income-generating enterprises, analysis of family legislations, and family as caregiver;

"(c) Continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund to support national actions and projects that directly promote the objectives of the International Year in the developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, and build national capacities for long-term family-oriented policies, including support for research, data collection, information exchange and experience sharing between countries on family issues;

"(d) Incorporate a capacity-building component in the programme on the family to provide advisory services, to assist Governments in integrating family-related programmes into national development strategies and facilitating the implementation and evaluation of national family-related policies and programmes within the framework of the objectives of the International Year;

"(e) Integrate a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the report on the implementation of resolution 58/15 at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly."